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L E T T E R
T O A
Great Man.

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LETTER

TO A

MAN.



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T O A

Great Man.

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L U C I U S.



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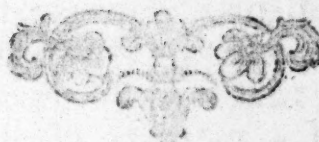
LETTER

George Mail

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LETTER, &c.

WHEN the political machine is at a stand, and ceases to communicate that life and vigour to society, which its motion was calculated to supply; and, when this stagnation in the body politick is owing to a suspension of one of its most active and essential powers; the occasion becomes so pressing, and the call so loud and urgent, that it can scarce be termed the duty of a member of the community, to point out the cause of so alarming a symptom. Such, sir, is the present situation of this country; and, such shall be the object of the following letter. But

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before

before I take the inquisitorial chair, I require you to give me your attention, if it be possible, and I shall not break my promise when I assure you, that I do not mean to trifle with you.

Happily for you, the same hand which planted the seeds of your character had time given him to afford them due culture. The parent of your principles did not quit the stage, on which he had himself made so signal a figure, before he had reason to be assured that neither comeliness of person, cheerful temper, nor open carriage, all united, would ever be able to counteract their influence. Bold, yet successful, was his system of education. The improvement of nature he found was above his genius, and ungrateful to his disposition; but, the perversion he knew and felt to be an easy task. Though an infant himself in the language of nature, yet he could make her speak *his* language; he could make her be silent at his bidding. Master of these secrets, which his superior skill and assiduity had made familiar to him, and aided

aided by the docility of the subject he had to work upon; he was enabled in you to reconcile paradoxes, and give harmony to inconsistencies: insomuch, that cowardice cannot brave, nor absurdity bluster, in your hands; nor can falshood bear the semblance of truth, when it is spoken by you.

Having given this testimony to the merit of your preceptor, I will now do the like justice to your own; and, shall candidly acknowledge to you, that, of all the ministers whose actions I have made my observation upon, or whose memoirs I have consulted, your conduct has been the most uniform and consistent. At the board, at council, and in the house, you have always been invariably the same. So that neither your most credulous, nor your most sceptical friend, reflecting upon the most problematical part of your conduct, could ever speculate a second motive for any action of your publick life. Striking, however, as this and the other qualities are, which mark your political character, I had forgotten the

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politician

politician in the affectionate father and the fond husband, I had at least left him to justice for his recompence, and let his fortune complete the consistency of his principles; had not the condition, to which this nation is reduced by that very consistency, called loudly and irresistably upon me, to warn my countrymen, that they take example from their superiors, and distinguish, as they do, between the man and the statesman. For, in private life, sir, (and I say it with pleasure) all men either envy or imitate you. In publick life, though too many, I fear, follow your example, yet none can possibly be envious of your reputation.

If the wise, the faithful, and the disinterested Walsingham should present himself to my imagination; and inquire of me, upon what principles, and by what conduct, modern ministers obey their sovereigns and serve their country; a reply would hardly be necessary: my conscious shame would at once confess the degeneracy of the age in which I live.

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and the indignant fire that now flashes over my face, like the holy book presented to the conscious murderer, turns the ink with which I am writing into blood, when I attempt to set down the answer I should make him. But, if I endeavoured to comply with his demand, how should I be able to excite in him trains of ideas which he had never felt, and to lead him through paths, which when alive he never trod? when I told him, that their sole and their inviolable principle was *self*, and, that their invariable conduct was, to sell the king to the people, and the people to the king; his honest shade would seem to start at my relation; I should become the ghost to him; that "spirit of health" would look upon me as "a goblin damned," and listen to my words as "blasts from hell." He would conceive me to be a strayer from the infernal regions, not an observer of the ways of men.

Do not, sir, imagine my idea of a modern minister to be exaggerated, and not strictly founded in reality.
And,

And, take care that the hurry of your temper does not betray you to pronounce the sentence he deserves; for there is a whole nation ready to cry out, in one united voice, with the prophet, *thou art the man*. I well know that persons will be found, who shall tell you, that this is a false and a scandalous libel; and, they may possibly talk away even your own consciousness of the truth of it; but, there is not a man in the kingdom who can be ignorant, nor can you yourself deny, that you have bought a number of the voices of the R——s of the P——e, with those favours which his M——y's confidence has so long and so largely intrusted to your disposal; that, you have repeatedly sold those voices again to his ministers, for your own advantage; and, that, you are now quarrelling with those who created you, because they will not come up to the price to which you have thought proper to raise yourself, and because the extravagance of your terms has made it necessary for them to think of changing their agent. I

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am not so splenetick as to imagine, that every measure of government is fraught with mischief, and that all must be carried by bribery and corruption. Nor, am I simple enough to believe, that they whose sanction is necessary to the operations of government, would always support the fairest measures, without being paid for it. But, there are some measures so unfair, and some operations so unjustifiable, that nothing but extraordinary exertions of influence to gain majorities could possibly bear them through. How far, and how successfully you have dealt in this latter commodity I could prove by numberless instances. witness, the many endeavours to ease the revenues of this Country of the extravagant load of a reproachful pension list, which your influence has rendered ineffectual. Witness, the loud complaints against the excessive increase of publick expences, which the voices of your merceneries, have always silenced. Witness, the repeated efforts to redeem our legislature from the shackles of the now unnecessary and imprudent law of Poynings, which

which you have constantly resisted and suppressed. Witness, the Rasure from the J——s of a certain assembly, on the 4th of March 1766, of a spirited and constitutional V——e of the day before, against the slavish conduct of a former P——t, with respect to the same law. This too, sir, we owe to the plenitude of your power. A power, which enabled you to refuse to correct that V——e, according to *truth*; and justified a declaration made in defiance of common sense, that *the clerk* had mistaken, what was published by *your* direction, and under *your* inspection. And yet, ever like yourself, not on the manly, the just, and the patriotick repeal of that law, but on the wanton and inflammatory violation of it, do you now vainly attempt to found the merit of an opposition. Think you, that we are fools? and, that we do not know you? believe me, sir, there are men in this country, whose penetration is not easily imposed upon by appearances and pretences. And, believe me also, that they are the men, on whose judgment all the safe, and all the formidable

dable opinions of the publick do finally and seriously depend.

Really, fir, when I reflect how great a share the design of making friends for you must have had, in producing the vast additional charges, that have been laid upon this kingdom for fourteen years past,—for, how can one otherwise account for the publick expences of the last two years exceeding that of the two years before you came into power, in a sum scarce short of £. 740,000, of which little less than £. 100,000 is placed to the account of that department, over which you particularly preside.—When I consider your faith and impartiality in the management and determination of elections; and the zeal and attention with which you have always regarded the commercial interests of the kingdom, and of the city of D----n in particular: when I think of the numbers, whom your favours or your promises have fed, of the table you have kept, and the equipage, with which you have pleas'd the people and supported
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the dignity of your office; and for which your electors have been twice obliged to double your allowance: When I revolve all these things in my mind, it is matter of serious wonder to me, that no one friend was to be found, whose wisdom and fidelity would save you from your present humiliating state; and, that there are so few now, who lament, or seem at all interested in your fall. Even honest laughing C-nr-y was no more! Surely, had he been alive, his mirth, and his affection for you had suggested some happy jest, some pointed story, which would have placed your situation in its true light. I believe there are few men in I--l--d who have not known, for some time, that it was a determined purpose of the E---h M---ry to dissolve your party; or, who did not see into the design of a continued residence. Nor was there any body, but yourself, who did not foresee, that the last fatal measure you engaged in would certainly destroy

destroy you ; or, who could be ignorant, that it was intended it should. But

Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.

Even distrust, the statesman's last principle, seems to have forsaken you ; when you could commit yourself to the direction of the two men in the world, whom you had the least reason to confide in : to one whose ambitious designs upon your county have already disturbed you ; and to another, who has been long known to envy you your chair. In short, sir, you have always been to me an object of curiosity and surprize. I was for a long time amazed, how you could maintain your power ; and, I am now astonished at your losing it, when, as you boast, you had nothing to contend with, but a V—y without policy, a secretary without experience, tools without credit, and managers without influence.

Submit therefore, my dear, sir, to your fate. It seems to be unavoidable. Accept the best terms you can get. As your actions will not stand the test of publick observation,

vation, if they make you lord P—sid-nt
 you can shelter yourself under the obscurity
 of the *privy* C——l. And, if you can ob-
 tain the additional happiness of a seat in
 the upper H——e you may then trans-
 mit in safety whatever B—lls you are
 ordered. *Documents* will confound you
 no more. You will be out of the reach
 of those troublesome C——s, and their
 vexatious money B—s.

LUCIUS.

FINIS.

